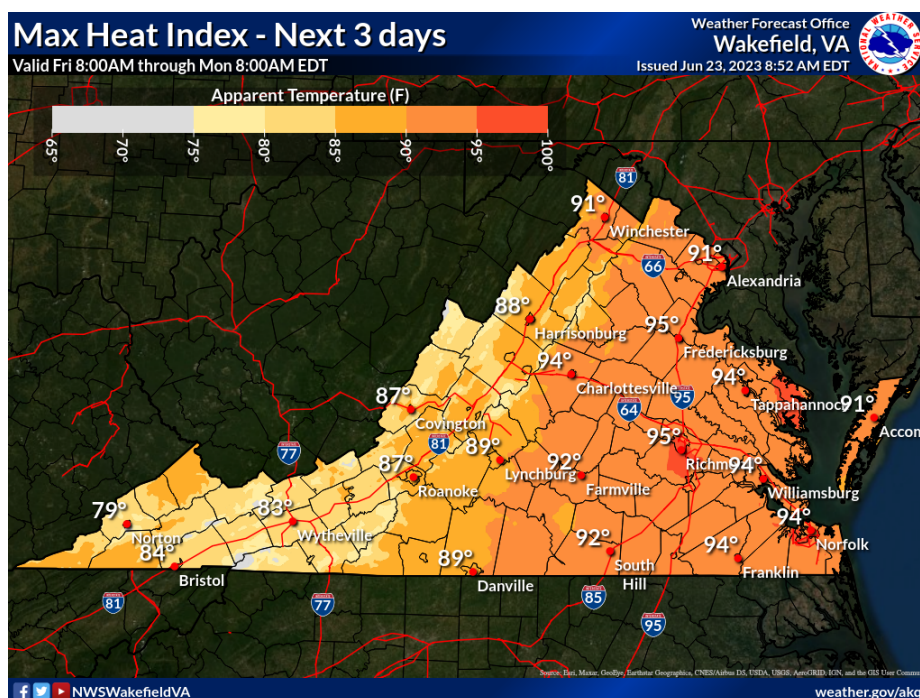


June 23, 2023

## Key Takeaways

- Case rates of COVID-19 remain low across the Commonwealth. Hospitalization rates for both COVID-19 and Influenza are at the lowest levels recorded all year. Wastewater surveillance reports most sites have viral loads too small to detect, with only one site reporting an increase in viral loads in the last week.
- Heatwaves continue to pummel Texas and surrounding states. Several hundred thousand remain without power in the area, and two deaths have been reported so far. The National Weather Service expects this heatwave to continue into next week. Heatwaves have also killed over 170 in India and are also affecting China, Mexico, and the UK.
- Temperatures are expected to rise across Virginia next week, though a heatwave like the one in Texas is not expected.
- Pfizer has warned of an impending shortage of long-acting injection antibiotics. These drugs are typically used to treat pneumonia and sexually transmitted diseases.
- Brazil has reported a new fatal human case of H1N1 swine flu. The CDC is assisting Brazilian officials with the investigation. The threat of sustained person-to-person transmission remains low.

## Key Figures



Source: National Weather Service

## COVID-19

20%

*Chance that the WHO will identify a new COVID-19 Variant of Concern before 2024. (Metaculus forecast)*

46

COVID-19 hospital admissions in Virginia for the week ending June 10.

## Wildfires

199 of 466

The number of uncontrolled wildfires in Canada, out of the total number of active fires.

## Heat-related Illness

238

Total emergency and urgent care Heat-related Illness visits in Virginia since May 1, as of June 18.

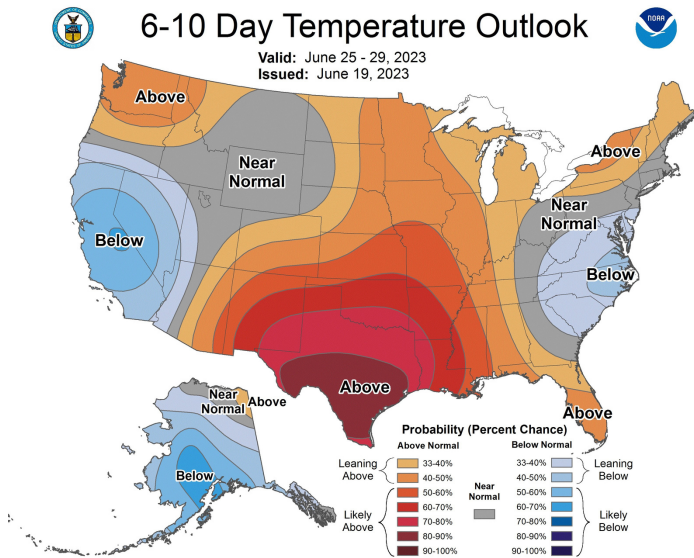
121,000+

Total customers in the Southern United States without power as of June 23, 2023.

## Spotlight: Heatwaves

*Forecasts are italicized*

## Spotlight



The heatwave affecting Texas and nearby states is expected to "re-strengthen" and continue into next week. Source: [NWS](#)

- **Higher temperatures expected for Virginia next week.** Though there is no expectation of a heatwave, much of the Commonwealth could see temperatures in the mid-90s next week. As temperatures rise, please consider these [tips from VDH](#) to avoid extreme heat related illness.

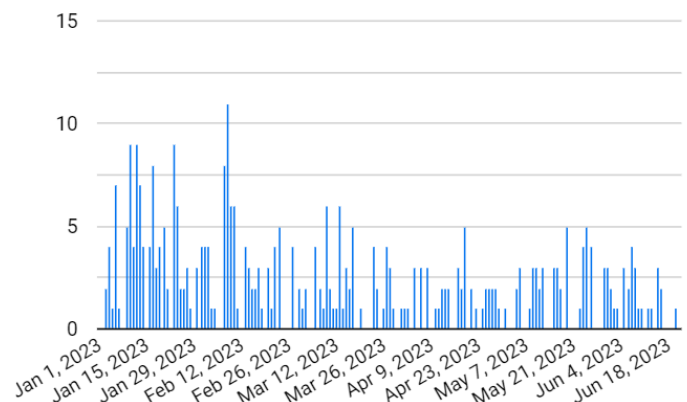
## Heatwaves and Related Illness

- **Extreme heat pummels gulf states while many residents are still without power.** Over [300,000 lost power](#) in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Mississippi this weekend. Power companies are rushing to restore service while the area is suffering a triple-digit heatwave. The heatwave itself is [further taxing](#) the weakened power-grid as demand for air conditioning grows. So far, [two deaths](#) have been reported. The national weather service (NWS) reports that there is "[no clear end in sight to this oppressive heat](#)" which is expected to continue into next week.
- **NERC notes that US power grid is vulnerable to extreme heat.** In their [2023 summer reliability assessment](#), the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) suggested [165 million Americans](#) are at risk for energy shortfalls this coming summer. Despite the added capacity since 2022, heat and wildfire related events may cause shortfalls across multiple regions including the Southeast.
- **Death toll from ongoing Indian Heatwave reaches 170.** Temperatures exceeded 110° F in two of India's most populous states, leading to [scores of heat-related deaths](#). Most victims were elderly or suffered from some underlying condition. Officials report that power failures have left many without running water, fans, or air conditioners.

## Other News

- **A key CDC committee recommended newly approved RSV vaccines for persons aged 60 and over.** The [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#), offered separate recommendations for persons age 60-64 and those age 65+.
- **Brazil reported a human case of swine-origin influenza A(H1N1)v.** The patient did not have direct contact with swine, but two close contacts worked on a swine farm. The patient passed away on May 5, four days after developing symptoms. The CDC has collected samples from Brazilian authorities and is [investigating](#) the case.
- **The CDC notified health providers about shortages of certain Bicillin L-A prefilled syringes.** Virginia's health commissioner has released a [clinician letter](#) advising providers on how to conserve Bicillin L-A.
- **Meta, which owns social media sites Facebook and Instagram, is rolling back COVID-19 misinformation rules.** The move follows the end of COVID-19 emergencies by the WHO and in the United States. Twitter [ceased](#) enforcing its COVID-19 misinformation policies in November, 2022. In 2021, the US Surgeon General [called](#) health misinformation a serious threat to public health.

### New COVID-19 Misinformation Claims, 2023



According to [COVID19misinfo.org](#), there have been 358 new English-language COVID-19 misinformation claims in 2023.  
Data Source: [COVID19misinfo.org](#).